

# City of San Marcos

# Hays County

April 1, 2010

For Immediate Release

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## Mail Back Census Forms, Officials Urge

“April 1, 2010 – It’s Census Day in the United States. Please mail back your Census questionnaire!”

That was the message elected officials, volunteers and Census Bureau representatives stressed at a press conference Thursday on the steps of the Hays County Courthouse.



YOU COUNT, SO BE COUNTED! Hays County, San Marcos, Comal County and Census officials urge residents to mail back their Census Forms right away to be counted in the 2010 Census. L-R are David Dickens, Arthur Swezey, Camille Valenti, Mayor Susan Narvaiz, Comal County Commissioner Donna Eccleston, and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Fred Terry; Row 2: Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Rose Brooks, Sophia Azoubel and Hays County Commissioner Jeff Barton; row 3: Janis Hendrix, Daniel Guerrero, Laureen Chernow and Ellie Stewart; row 4: Rick Menchaca, Matthew Lewis, Chuck Swallow, Pat Murdock, Arthur Taylor, Jeannie Lewis and Robert Watts. (Photo by Don Anders)

“It’s estimated that Hays County has added some 54,000 people since the last Census, and some estimates are upwards of 60,000,” said Hays County Commissioner Precinct 2 Jeff Barton. “We stand to lose some \$1.9 million a year in federal funding for every one percent of those people not counted. And that will remain in effect for 10 years, until the next Census.”

“We don’t want anyone to be left out,” said San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz. “The Census determines our representation in Congress and census data provide the basis for economic and community planning for our future.”

Mayor Narvaiz noted concern that San Marcos' participation rate was at 37 percent, lower than the national average of 52 percent, and said she was particularly concerned about ensuring that residents of multi-family and residential centers receive and return their forms.

"Apartment response so far is lower – 30 percent as of today – so we need Texas State University students and other apartment residents to fill out their forms and mail them," she said.

Joining Commissioner Barton and Mayor Narvaiz in encouraging residents to be counted and send in their forms were Comal County Precinct 1 Commissioner Donna Eccleston, Sophia Azoubel, the region's Census Bureau representative, San Marcos Complete Count Committee Chair Daniel Guerrero and Hays County Complete Count Chair Lauren Chernow. Numerous Census volunteers and members of organizations that benefit from an accurate Census count also attended.

Persons who have questions about the Census form or need a replacement form can go to an area Questionnaire Assistance Center (complete list at [www.co.hays.tx.us](http://www.co.hays.tx.us)) or call toll-free from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. any day of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays:

English: 1-866-872-6868

Spanish/en español: 1-866-928-2010

TDD (Telephone Display Device for the hearing impaired): 1-866-783-2010

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